While improvement in catering is a continuous process, the need for intensive inspections was stressed to bring further improvement in catering services.

Running of Railway Museum

2968. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Railways is running a Railway Museum in New Delhi which is one of the only two Railway Museum in the World;

(b) whether it is a fact that such a unique museum is not kept properly and slowly it is deteriorating; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that no proper visiting time, no publicity to attract people and other measures has been taken to make this unique museum a tourist attraction with special attention for children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, there are many such Railway Museums in the world.

(b) No, Sir. The museum i.e. the exhibits and the premises are regularly maintained and efforts are made to keep them in a presentable condition throughout the year. There is no deterioration of the museum premises or the exhibits.

(c) No, Sir. The visiting timings fixed for the museum are from 9.30 A.M. to 05.30 P.M. The museum is regularly contacting various schools and a number of schools have made it a regular visiting place. The museum is a tourist attraction and the number of tourists visiting this museum has been an all time high during 1992.

Confiscation of Smuggled Sandalwood Consignment by GRP in Howrah Division

2969. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GRP authorities in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway confiscated in the recent past a large consignment of sandal wood smuggled out of one of the Southern States and booked as Railway Parcel by Madras Mail ex: Jalarpettai station;

(b) if so, whether Government have initiated any investigation to identify the real consignor and consignee of said Parcel, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaint alleging that a section of the GRP authorities at Howrah entered into clandestine deals to dispose of the confiscated consignment of sandal wood; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of action taken or proposed to be taken if any, by Government to prosecute the involved officials and also deter the members of GRP forces from indulging in/abetting pilferage of Railway property and the criminal acts, particularly in Howrah and Asansol Divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED); (a) to (d) Registration, investigation, detection, and prevention of crimes on Railways is the responsibility of Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the respective State Government. It is therefore, for the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar to take necessary steps to prevent pilferage and to look into the complaints against the Government Railway Police. Information about specific incidents of theft in Railways is not maintained at the Central Government level.